



Save \$331 on your
cell phone bill **7**

Hawks' Kane
apologizes **12**

Meet the new
'Dancing' cast **26**

Dining goes
to the dogs **17**

r
ed
eye

Tuesday
AUGUST 18, 2009

redeyechicago.com

A Chicago Tribune
publication

★ FREE ★



secret lives of gamers

Think only geeks like
to play video games?
Think again **20-21**

Gamer Justin Kats, 20, of
Lansing plays in competitive
gaming tournaments.

MIKE BURLEY FOR REDEYE

2do

To recycle

Through August, bring in a gently used pair of jeans to donate to charity 1 percent of the Planet and score 20 percent off a pair of full-priced men's or women's jeans at Barneys New York (25 E. Oak St.) or Barneys Co-op (2209-11 N. Halsted St.).

» Jason Adasiewicz



To dance

Buy a drink and get a free salsa lesson from professional instructors from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at Nacional 27 (325 W. Huron St.).

To listen

Enjoy a jazz performance by Jason Adasiewicz at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday on the terrace at the Museum of Contemporary Art (220 E. Chicago Ave.). Don't forget to grab lunch at the farmers market in the front courtyard.



World's worst BFFs

Monday's cover story on "Bestie Breakups" definitely struck a chord among readers. We asked you to share your breakup stories at redeyechicago.com/blog, and boy, did we hear about them.

The missing friend

The back story: Friend has secret summer romance. "I still do not know his name, how they met, etc. ... I'm thrilled she's found love, she deserves someone who will make her happy. Not so thrilled that she decided not to clue me in."

Oh, not again

The back story: Friend calls every day about some sort of drama. "She was going out with someone married, and someone else that was married going through a divorce ... She was also sleeping with a guy she called a good friend... It was so much drama I had to get away for a little while."

The possessive friend

The back story: Friend doesn't let anyone near her co-worker. "I had grabbed dinner with her and this male co-worker several weeks ago ... [she] proceeded to pick fights with me and even jumped in between me and this boy when we attempted to salsa dance. ... This past Saturday night at a small bar gathering ... jokingly, I had turned to [her] upon arrival and said, 'So—is it OK if I talk to him or is there going to be a repeat of 'that' night?' ... I was shocked when she began to hurtle profanities at me."



82 63

TODAY'S FORECAST

Cloudy but nice



WED.

82

71

Chance of storms



THU.

84

66

See Wed.



FRI.

78

60

This is getting old



SAT.

76

59

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PICTURE THIS



The erosion from the high tides of Tropical Storm Claudette is quite evident Monday along the beaches of Destin, Fla., as a pavilion that is normally on the beach was surrounded by water. AP

Things are looking up

Looks like everyone has finally come to their Spidey senses. Spider-Man is returning to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Macy's spokesman Orlando Veras said Monday the company negotiated with Marvel comic books and Sony Pictures to bring the wall climber back to the spectacle.

The new balloon depicts a more muscular, crawling Spider-Man.

The original balloon debuted in 1987 and retired after the 1998 parade.

Spider-Man is great and all, but what about all the other balloons that aren't a part of the parade? Here are some suggestions from RedEye's social media friends.

One thing you won't get from RedEye is a lot of hot air. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/redeyechicago and friend us on Facebook at facebook.com/redeyechicago.

COMPILED BY SCOTT KLEINBERG.



GETTY IMAGES FILE

@AIIILibb A Transformer balloon that goes from a semi-truck float to an Optimus Prime balloon in an instant. How cool would that be?

@JackieInChicago A giant fail whale balloon

@ChicagoLatina80 Mayor Daley

@vitalyg Sarah Palin—she brings her own hot air

@lauralikewhoa a parade balloon version of "the money u could be saving w/geico" would be goofy. Even has a soundtrack already.

@sam_ash I'd like to see Blago filled with hot air. Oh wait ...

@sewpaflychick The Family Guy cast!

@briansalgado Jon, Kate, the eight and mom and dad's new mates!

Mixed message

President says marriage law discriminates although his administration defends it



Obama

Associated Press

WASHINGTON President Obama insisted Monday he still wants to scrap what he calls a discriminatory federal marriage law, even as his administration angered gay rights activists by defending it in court.

The president said his administration's stance in a California court case is not about defending traditional marriage, but is instead about defending traditional legal practice.

Justice Department lawyers filed new papers Monday seeking to throw out a lawsuit brought by a gay couple challenging the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA. Gay rights groups say that by doing so, the administration is failing to follow through on campaign promises made by Obama last year to work to repeal the law.

Department lawyers are defending the law "as it traditionally does when acts of Congress are challenged," Obama said in a statement.

The Clinton-era law denies federal recognition of gay marriage and gives states the right to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.

Obama said he plans to work with Congress to repeal the law, and said his administration "will continue to examine and implement measures that will help extend rights and benefits" to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender couples under existing law.

The government says in its court filing that it will defend the statute in this case because a reasonable argument can be made that the law is constitutional—a standard practice of government lawyers.

The mixed message got a mixed review from Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights group.

"It is not enough to disavow this discriminatory law, and then wait for Congress or the courts to act," Solmonese said in a statement. "While they contend that it is the DOJ's duty to defend an act of Congress, we contend that it is the administration's duty to defend every citizen from discrimination."

Walter Dellinger, a former solicitor general during the Clinton administration, praised Monday's filing for striking "a delicate but appropriate balance between the government's obligation to respect federal laws enacted by Congress and this administration's policy and moral concerns about this particular law."



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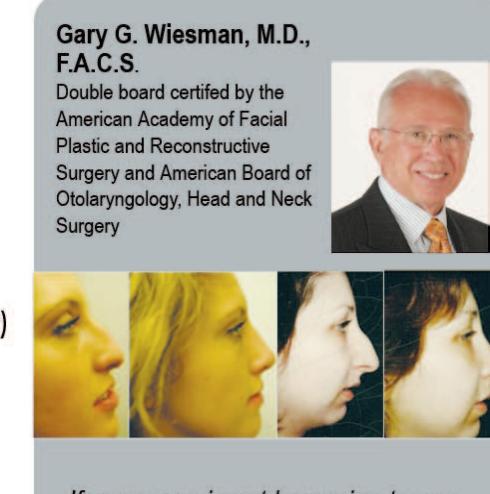
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- Gary Wiesman,

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RIDER'S BLOCK

My pledge to ride every CTA bus line continues. I rode the No. 87-87th Street bus last week and boiled my review down to 140 characters, the size of a Twitter tweet. Check out photos from the ride and past bus rides at redeyechicago.com/busride.

» [@tracyswartz](http://tracyswartz)

87th/Cicero to 91st/Commercial in 66 minutes. Lots of strip malls and drug stores, a few parks and cemeteries. Connects to Metra, Red Line.

Next up: No. 60-Blue Island/26th.

**LOST: DELL
E6500 LAPTOP**

"On my morning commute to work on the Brown Line I left my laptop bag in the car as I exited the LaSalle and Van Buren stop at 7:20 a.m." on Aug. 11

—CHRIS TRICE, 32,
ROSCOE VILLAGE



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The soundtrack of the train tracks

Instead of "Margaritaville," Fritz Legros should probably be playing the blues.

Legros—also known as "Fritz, the one-man band"—is a regular performer on CTA platforms. He was serenading riders Thursday afternoon at the Jackson Blue Line stop with Jimmy Buffett's "Margaritaville" and "I'll Be There" by the Jackson 5.

He was the Jackson 1: Legros strummed the guitar, blew into the harmonica around his neck and used one foot to shake a maraca while the other played a tambourine.

But Legros was less upbeat about the outlook for street performers, who have been getting a bad rap lately. The City Council voted in June to make it easier to revoke a musician's performer license if he or she violates the city's noise ordinance.

Though Legros is not out on the street, times are tough for CTA musicians too. There are not many places to perform in the CTA, Legros said, and riders are contributing less. Legros said he makes less than \$10 an hour; he used to earn twice that.

"People were generous because they had it. People are still generous but they don't have it," said Legros, adding that he has been playing in CTA subways since 1995. "It's better than nothing."

The CTA and the city have separate rules regarding street performers. Musicians who play on Michigan Avenue, for example, are required to buy a \$100 license from the city, according to the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection Web site.

CTA performers, meanwhile, pay only \$10 a year for their license but face more restrictions about where they can play. Musicians are allowed at only four subway locations: Washington/State, Jackson/State, Washington/Dearborn and Jackson/Dearborn, according to the CTA.

The Washington/State stop on the Red Line has been closed since October 2006 for renovation for the Block 37 CTA superstation—a project on hold indefinitely—leaving Legros and other street performers with three venues. Legros said he typically works in shifts of two to three hours and rotates between spots with other performers.

While downtown residents and workers complained about street performers at a recent City Council meeting, according to news reports, the CTA is seeing far fewer complaints about the musicians on its platforms. In 2008, CTA Customer Service recorded seven people mentioning the word "performer" in their communication with the CTA. Five of these mentions were compliments or people asking for details on how to obtain a permit, according to the CTA.

This year, customer service has three mentions on record, two of them complaints, the CTA said.

No matter the circumstance—the economy or a city crackdown on performers—Legros said he intends to continue to perform because he enjoys interacting with riders.

"I'll do it as long as I'm physically capable," Legros said. "They can't stop the music."

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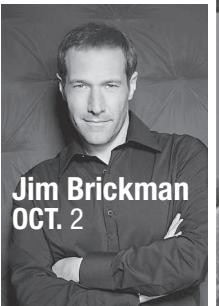
Bruce
Hornsby
NOV. 15



The Fab Four
SEPT. 12



**Paul Taylor
Dance Co.**
OCT. 1



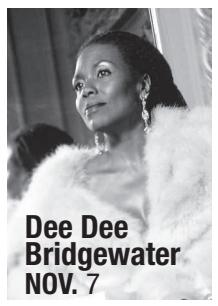
Jim Brickman
OCT. 2



Great Big Sea
OCT. 3



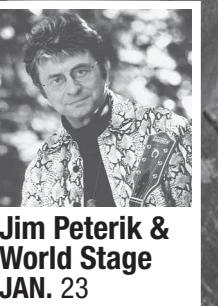
**The Flying
Karamazov
Brothers**
OCT. 30



**Dee Dee
Bridgewater**
NOV. 7



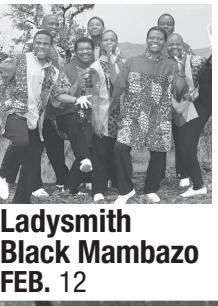
**John
Hammond**
JAN. 8 & 9



**Jim Peterik &
World Stage**
JAN. 23



**Paula
Poundstone**
FEB. 6



**Ladysmith
Black Mambazo**
FEB. 12



**Mojo and the
Bayou Gypsies**
FEB. 13



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Chicago's day off

City calls it a reduced service day—goal is to help balance budget

Chicago Tribune

You could not get a library book or see a doctor in a city health clinic Monday in Chicago, but you could pay a parking ticket or fight to un-boot your car, provided you'd wait in a line long enough for an amusement park ride. Cops, firefighters and privatized parking meters were working, however, even if nothing else was.

From a security guard answering phones in the mayor's office at City Hall to a harried staff collecting payments of fines at one of the few city offices open Monday, confusion and frustration reigned in the City that Works, which by design wasn't officially working at all.

To save an estimated \$8.3 million throughout the year in a tight budget crunch, Chicago picked three days, including Monday, to shut down most city services, leaving only a skeleton crew to handle emergencies and conduct necessary city business, such as collecting revenue.

About 11,000 workers stayed home Monday and will again the Friday after Thanksgiving and on Christmas Eve. City workers also have been taking furlough days throughout the year to help reduce payroll costs.

Unlike Memorial Day, New Year's Day or Casimir Pulaski Day, Furlough Day seemed to take city residents by surprise. The result: irritated resignation.

"That's it. Bad day," said Molly Gallardo, 58, of Back of the Yards, throwing up her hands after a wasted day bouncing around the city in a failed



Quenica Thornton comforts her daughter, Makayla, 8, on Monday after they arrived at the Chicago Public Library's State Street entrance only to find out it was closed due to a citywide furlough day. ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE

attempt to contest a \$150 parking ticket. "I came all this way. I have no gas money. I'm wasting my cell minutes. I figured I'd get this out of the way."

But she didn't. She ended up at the back of a line nearly 40 people deep only to be told by a security guard that what she was trying to do couldn't be done.

Not Monday.

One of the few places Chicago left open was the Chicago Department of Revenue office at 400 W. Superior St. Nearly 40 people, including Gallardo, peered around the shoulders of the person in front

of them as they waited in line for about 45 minutes. A crowd of people tried to make sense of an automated ticket-paying machine, and six beleaguered city workers tried to prevent an upheaval.

Sam Ardito was surprised to find the heavy double doors at the Harold Washington Library locked. The mobile tutor depends on public libraries and coffee shops to serve as his office.

"There's no resources anywhere else," Ardito, 27, said as he waited for a 14-year-old student he was supposed to help with a paper about the history of Humboldt Park.

YOUR REDUCED SERVICE DAY

We asked RedEye's Twitterati what they would do if they could just shut down for the day. As usual, they had some great answers. Take some time off with RedEye every day at [twitter](#). [com/redeyechicago](#) and on Facebook at [facebook](#). [com/redeyechicago](#). COMPILED BY SCOTT KLEINBERG

@amorow Get my fix of Sesame Street, courtesy of my son, and head up to a Five Guys.

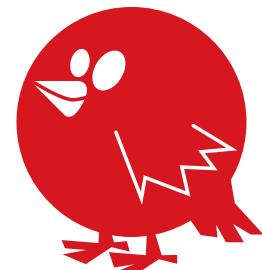
@LdyGray Sit at home and read Twitter all day, instead of doing that at the office.

@steveimpari And we want to host the olympics (intentional lack of capitalization) here? Yeah, right!

@cyanyde I would run around in scrubs on the CTA with fake blood bags screaming "wheres the hospital!?"

@jrrtubbs When I've just called off I usually make a good breakfast and catch a movie.

@iaman Eat cereal, bike down to the beach for a picnic, read a book, then curl up on a comfy couch to watch movies :)



Survey: Cell phone users spending too much on bills

Chicago Tribune

\$331.

That's how much Illinois cell phone users could save on average on their bills every year if they switch to plans with fewer minutes and get rid of unnecessary features, the Citizens Utility Board said in a report released Monday.

The \$331 figure comes from an analysis of 6,985 cell-phone bills that Illinois residents

entered into the CUB Cellphone Saver, an online tool the group launched a year ago.

Consumers who use one of the five major carriers can upload a PDF of their bill at [cub-cellphonesaver.com](#), and the site generates a free report with recommendations on how to save money by switching to a different carrier or using a different plan with the same company. The carriers covered are AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, U.S.

Cellular and Verizon Wireless.

CUB said its data showed that most bills averaged more than seven hours of unused calling time a month, representing almost half the total minutes consumers were paying for under their plan. "A large number of bills" also averaged 386 unused text messages a month, CUB said. Only 9.3 percent of bills analyzed had penalties for going over the monthly allotment of minutes.

"This is really savings without sacrifice," said CUB Executive Director David Kolata. "All you're really doing is optimizing your cell-phone plan so it matches your calling behavior."

The report said another culprit in high cell-phone costs is extra and often unnecessary features such as roadside assistance and insurance.

"In most cases, this is money that is simply being thrown away," Kolata said.

Get jazzed on the CTA

Duke Ellington famously advised his listeners to "Take the 'A' Train" whenever he played Billy Strayhorn's classic tune.

But the "A" train went "to Sugar Hill way up in Harlem," as the lyric goes, and that didn't do much for you if you lived in Chicago.

Come Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m., however, a new Chi-Jazz El Train will swing around the Loop, rumble up the Purple Line to Evanston and then head back downtown—with jazz musicians playing onboard all the while.

The performers will hold forth in one car, the music piped in live to all the others. To ensure that everyone gets face time with the jazzmen, passengers periodically will rotate from one car to the next.

"People ride the CTA every day to work, but we thought this would be a good chance to take the train out of that context and put it in a different one," says Daniel Melnick, program director of the non-profit Jazz Institute of Chicago, which conceived the experiment.

Though architectural and historical tours have been done via the "L" before, a Chicago jazz set on the rails may have few precedents.

JAZZ ON THE CTA

The Chi-Jazz El Train runs 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, starting from and returning to the Library-State/Van Buren stop; \$15; tickets at jazzinchicago.org or 312-427-1676.

Picking the right musicians for the gig-on-wheels posed a challenge—clearly someone who needed a Steinway concert grand wasn't going to be hired.

So Melnick and colleagues approached inventive Chicago guitarist Neal Alger, who practically jumped a turnstile to seize the opportunity.

"It's certainly a gig unlike any other," says Alger, who has played venues glamorous and shady, but never one quite like this. "To be a part of this is phenomenal."

Passengers are welcome to bring aboard food and non-alcoholic beverages, which means the set will have just about everything expected of a jazz show except waitresses, bouncers, nighttime and, of course, cocktails.

Winnie the Pooh bandit caged

The FBI didn't mention using honey but said Monday that it has arrested and charged a man who they believe is the Winnie the Pooh bandit.

Michael Veysada, 45, of Portage Park was arrested Friday night.

Veysada was charged Monday with a felony count of armed bank robbery and was ordered held without bond by U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael Mason. The FBI believes Veysada is responsible for three armed bank robberies in the Chicago area in the past week.

According to authorities, Veysada allegedly entered the MB Financial Bank branch in Countryside on Wednesday and verbally threatened a teller, implying he had a handgun. He then stole \$1,300 in cash and fled on foot.

FBI officials say Veysada also is suspected in the Aug. 7 robbery of a Chase Bank branch in Park Ridge and the Aug. 10 robbery of a Bank of America branch at 5541 N. Harlem Ave. in Chicago, but he has not been charged in those incidents.

No injuries were reported in any of the robberies.

FBI agents were led to the suspect through a tip from the public following the Aug. 7 robbery in which the robber was seen wearing a Winnie the Pooh sweatshirt.

Veysada's next court date is Aug. 25. If convicted, Veysada faces a sentence of up to 20 years in prison.



Veysada



Antlers for a cause

Meghan Hynes, a volunteer with ForestEthics, leads a group of protesters Monday dressed as caribou outside Sears in the Loop. The environmental group says Sears is stalling on the release of a robust paper policy that the protesters say, if implemented, would protect vulnerable caribou populations in Canada's Boreal Forest. They also support creating a national "Do Not Mail" list to reduce the volume of paper wasted distributing unwanted catalogs. BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE

THE DIGIT

\$2.8 mil.

The Wilmette mansion of former Rod Blagojevich fundraiser Antoin "Tony" Rezko sold Monday for the opening bid of \$2.8 million to the same bank that put the house up for auction. Bank of America, which foreclosed \$5.9 million on the property last May, was the only bidder.

3 arrested in robbery, attack

A man and two 15-year-old boys were charged with beating and robbing a Rogers Park man as he walked on the street Friday evening, Chicago Police said Monday. Dwayne Jones, 18, of the 6600 block of North Ashland was ordered held on \$75,000 bond Sunday, according to the Cook County state's attorney's office. The attack occurred at about 10:45 p.m. in the 1600 block of West Lunt Avenue.

Amtrak delayed after train hits man

A Chicago-bound Amtrak train struck and killed a person 20 miles south of Joliet on Sunday night, causing a 6-hour delay for more than 100 passengers, officials said. Passengers were given snacks and beverages, said Marc Magliari, an Amtrak spokesman. The train finally arrived at Union Station about 5:15 a.m. Monday. The train was scheduled to leave St. Louis about 5:30 p.m. Sunday, with an 11:00 p.m. arrival in Chicago.

Lincoln Park bomb threat

A man was in custody Monday in Lincoln Park after threatening to blow up the "first CTA bus he saw," Chicago Police said. The man was on the street in the 2200 block of North Lincoln Park West when he began threatening to bomb a bus and implied that he had a bomb, said Chicago News Affairs Officer Kevin Kilmer. The man had a suspicious package with him, which is being investigated, said Kilmer.

No bond for man accused in slayings

A 24-year-old man charged in connection with a deadly 20-minute crime spree earlier this month in Humboldt Park was held without bail Monday. Ricardo Marchan, 24, of the 4000 block of West Grand Avenue, is charged with the Aug. 2 murders of Michael Hernandez, 18, and Patrick Cregan, 35, and the armed robberies of two other victims.

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1 McCain talks terrorism

A delegation of U.S. senators led by John McCain (above) and the president of Yemen discussed on Monday ways to help the impoverished Arabian Peninsula country battle the threat from Al Qaeda. **AP PHOTO**

2 Taliban claims bombings

The Taliban claimed responsibility for two weekend suicide bombings in the northwestern Swat Valley, saying Monday the blasts were a message to a visiting U.S. envoy that the militants remained strong despite recent Pakistani army gains there.

3 10 killed in plant accident

An accident during repair work at Russia's largest hydroelectric plant on Monday killed at least 10 workers, while as many as 65 others were missing after an engine room was suddenly flooded, officials said. The cause of the accident at the Sayano-Shushenskaya plant in southern Siberia was unclear.

4 Transit strike averted

A walkout among workers for the San Francisco Bay Area's commuter rail had been scheduled, and contingency plans were in place. But just a few hours before a midnight strike deadline, officials said rail management and a union have reached a deal to call it off.

5 Remains found in home

A man who reported his wife missing over the weekend in Cincinnati was arrested Monday on charges of tampering with evidence and obstructing official business after police said they found human remains in his house.

6 Vietnam return redux

Tears filled the eyes of some Vietnam veterans who were warmly greeted at Ft. Campbell, Ky., with cheers from their family and friends Sunday in an re-enactment of their original return from the war, when they were often met with angry demonstrators and harsh headlines.

DIGIT

130 million

A 28-year-old Miami man was charged Monday with the largest case of credit and debit card data theft ever in the U.S.—130 million accounts.



Arctic Sea, a Russian-crewed cargo ship that disappeared almost three weeks ago, has been found off the West African coast. All 15 crew members were alive, but details about what happened to the ship were not revealed.

GETTY IMAGES FILE

Russia: Missing ship found

8 MOSCOW The Russian-crewed freighter that sparked a high-seas mystery when it disappeared nearly three weeks ago has been found by a Russian naval frigate off the West African coast, the country's defense minister said Monday.

The Arctic Sea's 15 crew members, last heard from July 28, were alive and now aboard the navy ship, Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov said in a meeting with President Dmitry Medvedev shown on national TV.

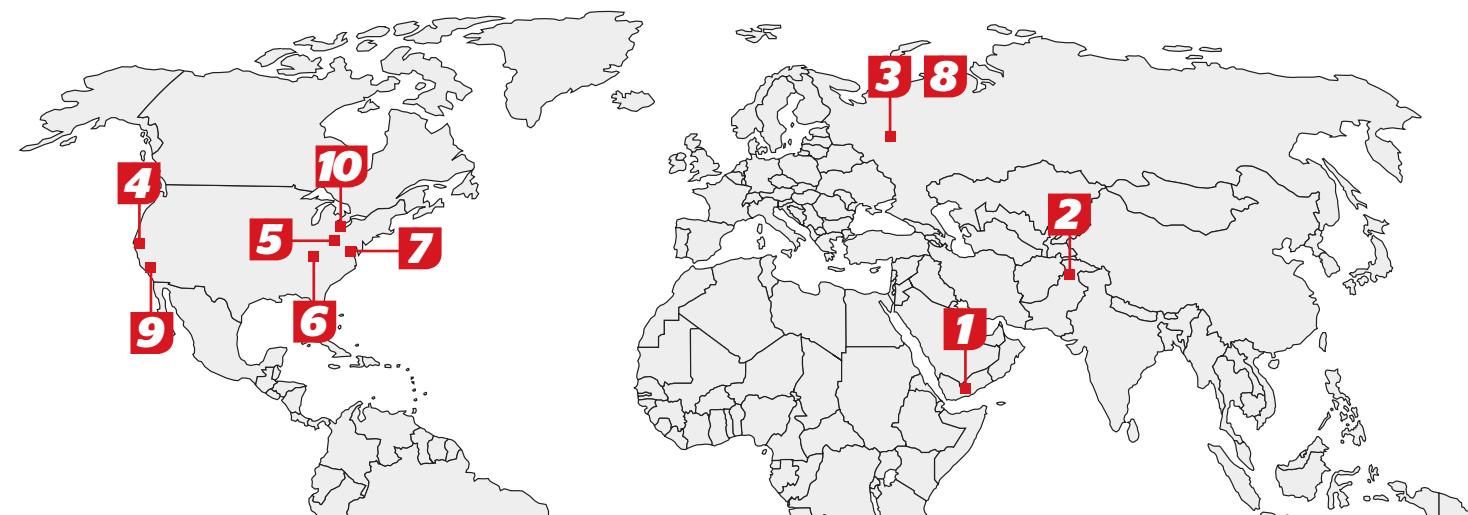
He did not give details about what happened to the ship.

Since the Arctic Sea sailed from the Finnish port of Pietarsaari on July 21, a fog of rumors, unconfirmed reports and red herrings has swirled around it.

On July 30, Swedish police said the ship's owner had reported that the crew claimed the vessel was boarded by masked men on July 24 near the Swedish island of Gotland. The invaders reportedly tied up the crew, beat them, claimed they were looking for drugs, then sped off about 12 hours later in an inflatable craft.

Adding to the mystery, Russia's envoy to NATO, Dmitry Rogozin, told the ITAR-Tass news agency Monday that bogus information was deliberately provided to news media "which did not allow them to calculate the true actions of the Russian forces."

With details still sparse, Viktor Matveyev, director of the ship's operator Solchart, told The Associated Press "We are all incredibly happy. Now the big work starts to find out what happened."



THAT'S ODD

Weird news about cars

Two very strange stories tied together by one link: Cars.

9 GLENDOURA, Calif.

California authorities say a man caused a traffic jam when he threw money onto a L.A.-area freeway and people dashed into the lanes to grab the cash. Police said about 10 people ran into traffic lanes to get it. Officers recovered about \$1,000.

10 TOLEDO, Ohio

Police say a masked man drove a stolen car through the front doors of a clinic and down the hallway before ramming into a pharmacy desk and stealing drugs. Toledo police say security cameras recorded the robbery shortly after 3 a.m. Monday. The car was found burned behind a Toledo library, about a mile and a half from the clinic.

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sports

'I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE'

HAWKS STAR KANE EXPRESSES SHAME, CONCERN IN FIRST COMMENTS SINCE ARREST

Chicago Tribune

After apologizing Monday for an altercation with a Buffalo cabdriver, Chicago Blackhawks winger Patrick Kane said the toughest part of the ordeal was his family seeing him in handcuffs.

"They said it's something they never want to see again," a subdued Kane said following opening practice of the 2009 U.S. Men's Olympic orientation camp. "My family didn't raise me that way, so it's tough to let them down too."

Kane said he was worried how his arrest would affect his chances to make Team USA and how fans attending the three-day camp would react.

"At a time like this, obviously, you're worried about different things," Kane, 20, said.

"Things that come into play, being on the cover of a video game or coming to a camp like this or anything that you're involved with. Everyone has been pretty supportive so far. They're tending to see that not all the facts are out but you can't just judge on the first impression of a story."

Kane said he saw some fans wearing his jersey at camp Monday.

"I saw a Dallas guy up in the front booing me pretty good," he said. "Sometimes you just have to chuckle at things like that. There's probably going to be a lot of comments and jokes for the next couple of years. I'm going to have to deal with it and get used to it. It was fun to see the reception and still see the fans cheering—and obviously we have great fans in Chicago—so it was fun to see a lot of jerseys and the great

reception from them."

Until Monday, Kane had said nothing publicly about the Aug. 9 incident. He and his cousin, James Kane, 21, were arrested for allegedly beating and robbing a 62-year-old cabdriver apparently during an argument over the fare in Kane's hometown of Buffalo.

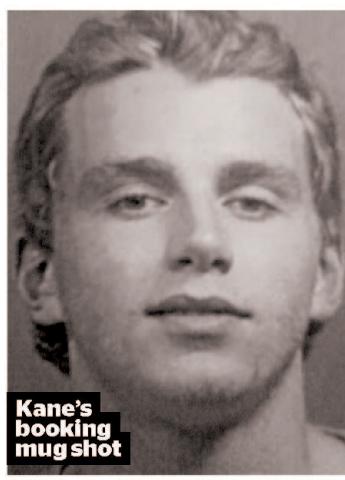
Before practice, Kane read a brief statement that apologized for the pain he had caused his family and fans.

"I've been very lucky to achieve every kid's dream of playing in the National Hockey League, let alone for a great organization like the Chicago Blackhawks," said Kane, accompanied by Hawks General Manager Stan Bowman. "Now I also have a chance to play for my country, a dream come true for myself and also my family."

"I know everyone wants to talk about what happened in Buffalo. As you know, the legal proceedings are pending and I cannot discuss the details at this time. Because I put myself ... in the wrong position at the wrong time I've caused a lot of pain for my family, my hometown of Buffalo, the city of Chicago, the Chicago Blackhawks and obviously the great fans we have here in Chicago. And for that part I sincerely apologize. Now it's time for me to move forward. I'm excited to get back to the ice and represent the Chicago Blackhawks and the United States Olympic hockey team."

Kane is among 34 NHL players, including Hawks teammate Dustin Byfuglien, invited to the Olympic camp held Monday through Wednesday. The camp is the first step toward determining the 23-man team that will compete in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February.

Brian Burke, general manager of the U.S. Olympic team, said Kane's arrest wouldn't have an impact on the winger's chances of making the Olympic team.



PATRICK KANE TIMELINE

From the moment he stepped into Jan Radecki's cab a little more than a week ago, Patrick Kane's life has been a series of legal twists and turns. Let's recap.

REDEYE, TRIBUNE, AP CONTRIBUTED

Aug. 9

Patrick Kane and his cousin, James Kane, were arrested in Buffalo in the early morning after 62-year-old cabbie Jan Radecki told police they attacked him when he said he didn't have 20 cents change for the fare. The Kanes pleaded not guilty to a felony robbery charge and misdemeanor counts of theft and criminal mischief.



Radecki

news media. He said cabdrivers in Buffalo often lock their doors to ensure they are paid and suggested that practice may have led to the confrontation.

Aug. 10

Radecki's lawyer, Andrew LoTempio, said during an interview with WGN (720-AM) that the altercation was "blown out of proportion" by

Aug. 11

Ken Brown, a spokesman for the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, told the Tribune that Radecki had been driving on a revoked license since 1998.

Thursday

Patrick Kane's lawyer, Paul Cambria, confirmed that a grand jury in New York's Erie County had begun looking into the charges against the Kanes. He added that Patrick would not testify to the grand jury.





“There’s probably going to be a lot of comments and jokes for the next couple of years. I’m going to have to deal with it and get used to it.”

—PATRICK KANE,
speaking to the media during
Olympic orientation camp
GETTY IMAGES



Monday

Kane made his first public comments about the incident, apologizing and later adding that he was devastated to have disappointed his family. Kane didn’t address specifics of the incident with Radecki.

Later this week

A grand jury is expected to decide whether Kane should face criminal charges. The grand jury also could downgrade the felony charge to a misdemeanor and leave the matter to the city court. The Kanes are scheduled to appear at a hearing Thursday in Buffalo City Court.



Patrick Kane walks past young fans before practice Monday at the U.S. Men's Olympic orientation camp in Woodridge. CHUCK BERMAN/TRIBUNE

Bright side of sports in Chicago

Location, location, location.

That cliche really says something (mostly about location). But it’s true. And in sports it’s no different. Because of plate tectonics, glaciers or asteroids (probably a bad time to mention I failed geology), Chicago happens to be in the Midwest, home to some of the worst professional sports teams anywhere, particularly in the two sports in which winning the division matters.

Take our baseball teams. They aren’t good. The emotional stability of their managers is questionable at best. The Cubs have that whole everyone-is-crazy/injured/underperforming thing going on. Across town, the White Sox aren’t exactly running away with their division either after trading for an injured guy, picking up a guy who is so overpaid he was free, and managing to (literally) lose a former Cy Young winner, Bartolo Colon, who is perhaps the fattest man alive. And yet they’re both in contention.

That’s mostly because the rest of the Central is just as inept. St. Louis added Matt Holliday, who has made like three outs, and Chicago’s favorite baseball player ever, Mark DeRosa, yet still can’t pull away from the Cubs, who did, um, basically nothing. Meanwhile, the Detroit Tigers have enough money on their DL to bail out General Motors. Still, Chicago’s two clubs can’t find ways to get into first.

And the Bears may well be the favorites in the NFC North, especially if Jay Cutler can produce near the ridiculous expectations. It’s to the point where you can make Chuck Norris jokes about Cutler and Chicagoans think they’re facts. But given that the defending NFC North champ has a battle between guys named Sage and Tarvaris (at quarterback, not World of Warcraft), the Bears might win the thing.

It’s like high school, when grades were curved. And Chicago is in the biggest blowoff class ever.

Given the (normally) hot summers and the miserably cold winters (prediction: still going to happen), I never thought I’d say that Chicago had a great geographic location. But in sports, I can’t complain.

Maybe Jean Baptiste Pointe de Sable knew what he was doing. And yes, I Wikipediaed that.



Scott Bolohan

redeyesports
@tribune.com

Bear it out

CLTV producer and blogger Jerry Riles talks sports at weblogs.ctv.com/news/local/chicago. Give us your answers at chicagonow.com/blogs/redeye/5on5.



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1 What is priority No. 1 in Bears practices this week?	Heal Matt Forte at all costs. Consult a witch doctor if necessary.	Proving that Jay Cutler is the best in the NFL—they sure make him out to be that.	Not hurting Jay Cutler. I have faith.	Who's going to be first in the chow line AFTER practice? That's always the No. 1 priority.	Stretching Devin Hester to 6-foot-4.
2 Judging the Bears in August is like judging Mel Gibson after one beer.	... picking the "American Idol" winner in the first tryout show.	... letting Michael Vick dog-sit. It's still WAY too soon.	... judging the Cubs in October. Completely Useless By September!	... foraging for roots and berries in December. It doesn't make sense!
3 How can you tell the Cubs are on a West Coast trip?	Carlos Zambrano is pushing tummy tucks as the way to ease the pressure on his back.	When you text them at 8 p.m., they are eating dinner.	Len and Bob punctuate every third sentence with "dude."	Carlos Zambrano is eating grapes instead of munching on bananas.	Their post-game spread includes reds and whites from Napa Valley.
4 How can White Sox slugger Carlos Quentin break his recent slump?	Don't say "break" around Quentin! Quentin smash! Rrrrrrr!	One word: breakfast.	It's a family newspaper, I can't say it. Just ask Mark Grace for the answer.	Hang out on Rush Street with Jay Cutler all night drinking Patron shots.	Visualize swatting a salmon with his massive paw. Works for me.
5 Say something to cheer up Tiger Woods.	It could've been worse. You could've choked against Sergio Garcia.	Well, at least your wife is hot, dude.	Your career earnings + endorsements = \$769,440,709. There, there. It's OK.	You still get to go home to Elin. Talk about a hole-in-one.	It was generous of you to let someone else win for once.

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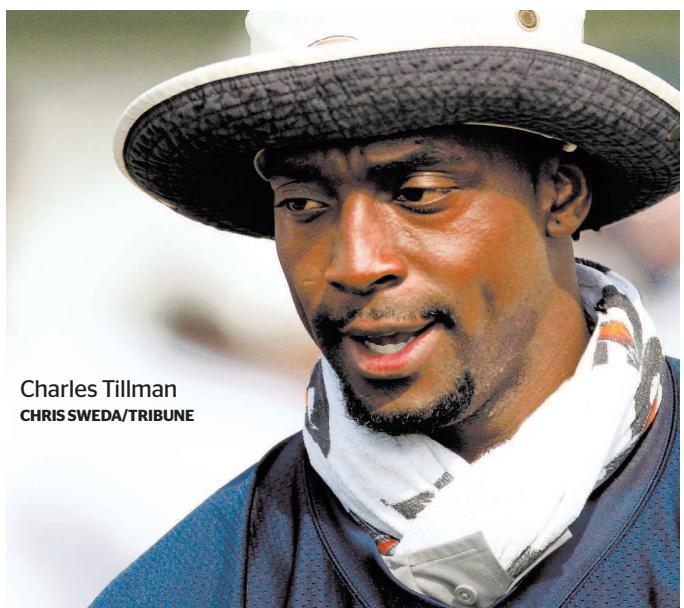
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Charles Tillman
CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE

Help on the way

BOURBONNAIS Considering the way the Bears' pass defense struggled in the preseason opener, the sight of Charles Tillman backpedaling on the practice field Monday was a promising sign.

Tillman, sidelined since the start of training camp following minor back surgery, did his most extensive work in months, running sprints and performing agility drills with fellow injured cornerback Zack Bowman.

"My goal is to be out there for the first game," Tillman said about the Sept. 13 opener at Green Bay. "If I'm not [ready], I'm not. But I'm just taking it one game at a time."

The Bears could use him. The 27-20 loss Saturday at Buffalo exposed some of the same woes that plagued the Bears's secondary last season. Nathan Vasher, the veteran leader of the group with Tillman out, had the hardest time of all. He got beat deep by Lee Evans on one play and allowed Evans to convert another first down on third-and-5.

Asked Monday about Vasher's performance, coach Lovie Smith said: "Not as well as he needs to play. But I'll say that about a lot of us. ... Some guys need to pick it up. Nate is one of them."



Jay talking

A day-to-day look at Jay Cutler's first training camp with the Bears.

For starters: On Cutler's first pass of 7-on-7 drills, Devin Hester went up and snatched it in front of the defense. That's probably the way Cutler had hoped Hester would do it on that interception in Buffalo. Forgive and forget.

Did I do that? So the Cutler-Hester rift—if any—probably was blown out of proportion, but Hester said Monday he was a little offended until Cutler sent a text message clarifying the matter.

WHITE SOX 8, KANSAS CITY 7 CUBS AT SAN DIEGO, LATE

» Jake Peavy's first start for the White Sox will not be Sept. 3 against the Cubs at Wrigley Field, but it could be in just as charged an atmosphere on Aug. 28 at Yankee Stadium.

» The Sky announced Monday that the team will move from the 9,000-seat UIC Pavilion to the 19,000-capacity Allstate Arena in Rosemont next season.

» Sky vs. Phoenix, 7 p.m. Tuesday » Boston releases eight-time All-Star John Smoltz



Patrick Kane said he's sorry for getting arrested in Buffalo. It would have been weird if he had said anything else, right? Here now, my TV picks.



White Sox vs. Kansas City

7:11 p.m. CSN

Jim Thome took the day off Monday. Think he would have done that against Detroit?



Cubs at San Diego

9:05 p.m. WGN

The Cubs are playing in my favorite stadium outside of Chicago: Petco Park.



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Eligible participants must:

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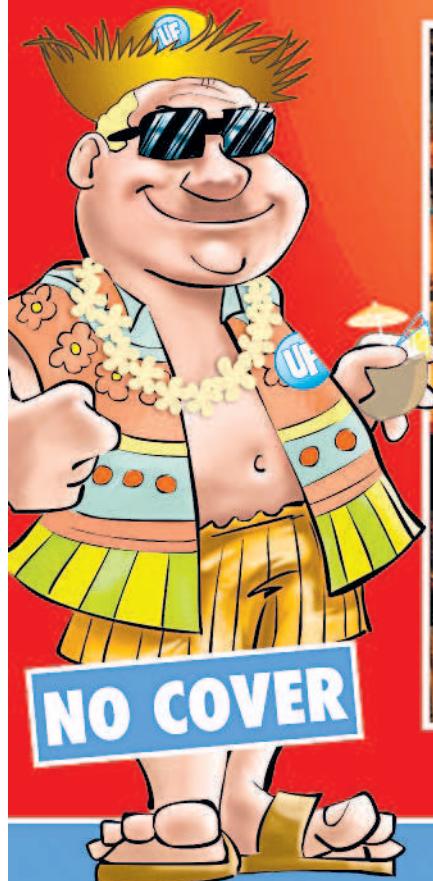
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PHOTO: WEDDING BANNER ON STAGE AT FATTYS

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NO COVER

SATURDAY 8/22
ST. FATTYS DAY
band: STACHE

metromix

Doggin' it

Top 'hoods for patio hopping with your pup in tow

By Lisa Arnett

Want to bring your dog along on your next outdoor dining and drinking excursion? You're not the only one.

To up your chances of landing a table at one of the city's licensed dog-friendly patios, grab your leash and take a walk through one of these 'hoods with multiple options.

DIVISION STREET

The Fifty/50

2047 W. Division St.
773-489-5050

If Rover likes to watch the game as much as you do, this sidewalk patio with clear views of flat-screen TVs is your destination for game-day revelry with a side of waffle fries.

The Smoke Daddy

1804 W. Division St.
773-772-6656

This lively bar and barbecue joint leaves a water bowl out front as a gesture to welcome passersby. Bigger dogs best claim spots on the perimeter of the fenced-off sidewalk cafe for a more comfortable meal.

Moonshine

1824 W. Division St.
773-862-8686

Whether you're headed to this laid-back bar for happy hour mojitos or a bloody mary-fueled brunch, there's plenty of shade space on the sidewalk for your tail-wagger to take a load off.

Small Bar

2049 W. Division St.
773-772-2727

You like tater tots. Your dog likes begging for them. Let's just call this a match made in heaven.

Via Carducci La Sorella

1928 W. Division St.
773-252-2244

This Italian eatery offers a more refined meal than its pub-grub neighbors, though the intimate 14-seat patio is most appropriate for beagles or smaller.

LISA ARNETT IS THE METROMIX NIGHTLIFE AND SHOPPING PRODUCER.
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Post your puppy pics!

Log on to metromix.com to share photos of you and your dog on the prowl.

GOLD COAST

The Cedar Hotel

1112 N. State St. 312-944-1112

While you down plastic cups of sweet tea vodka-spiked lemonade, your four-legged best friend can soak up the scene on this airy patio filled with wicker furniture and high-top tables flanked with barstools.

Feast

25 E. Delaware Place 312-337-4001

Though small dogs are more common among nearby condo owners, this 80-seat patio already has plenty of big-dog regulars. If the patio's full, just knock on the window and a staffer will come out to add your name to the list—and take your cell number if you'd like to fit in a walk while you're waiting for a table.

Eve

840 N. Wabash Ave. 312-266-3383

This sleek lunch and dinner spot offers a 35-seat sidewalk under the shade of an awning, but with only a few dog sightings so far this season, it has yet to catch on as a dog-friendly destination.



T'S
JASON LITTLE FOR METROMIX



Pup and parent on Moonshine's dog-friendly patio
FILE FOR METROMIX

ANDERSONVILLE

Charlie's Ale House

5308 N. Clark St. 773-751-0140

Tables for three—one couple plus a dog—are a common request at this small six-table sidewalk patio where the staff has spotted everything from mighty mastiffs to pocket puppies. There's nearly always a wait during Sunday brunch, while evenings are more likely to be wait-free.

Joie de Vine

1744 W. Balmoral Ave. 773-989-6846

A staff of dog owners plus Wednesday "Yappy Hours" sponsored by nearby pet day care center Bow Wow Lounge have made this wine bar and eatery a dog-friendly favorite.

T's

5025 N. Clark St. 773-784-6000

Canines of all sizes are always welcome at this spacious 50-seat sidewalk cafe, but they're the center of attention during "Dinner With Your Dog" nights on Tuesdays (5 p.m.).

PLAYING BY THE RULES

» In order for dogs to be permitted at a restaurant or bar's outdoor area, the establishment must have a City of Chicago-issued dog-friendly dining area license.
» Dogs must stay leashed at all times.
» Though it's fairly common for customers to order food for their dogs or for staffers to offer dog treats, the only thing a restaurant or bar can legally serve your dog is water. If you're asking for more, you could get your fave spot fined.

best bets

By Rebecca Palmore
rkpalmore@tribune.com

tue 18 McAuslan Beer Celebration

Bottom Lounge,
1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.
This rock bar-restaurant continues to host stellar drink meetups. On Tuesday, try mircobrews from McAuslan Brewing in Quebec, including Pumpkin Ale and its award-winning Oatmeal Stout. 6 p.m. No cover.

FREE Outdoor Film Festival

Grant Park, Monroe Street and Lake Shore Drive. 312-744-3315.
Last week's "Psycho" crowd was huge, and while this week's film, "Young Mr. Lincoln," is more obscure, it's also the second to last in the series, so expect just as many picnic-bound boids. 8:27 p.m.

FREE Movies in the Parks

Various city parks. 312-742-7529.
On the marquee tonight: "The Break-Up" (Chicago History Museum plaza, 1601 N. Clark St.) and "Blackboard Jungle" (West Pullman Park, 401 W. 123rd St.). Films screen at dusk.

wed 19 Martini class

Chen's, 3506 N. Clark St. 773-549-9100.
Toast back-to-school season with this cocktail class, and you'll also get a math lesson: Spend \$10 to learn how to make Chen's signature 'tini and you get a \$20 gift card for a future visit. Includes samples and appetizers. 6:30 p.m.

thu 20 Kumail Nanjiani

Lakeshore Theater, 3175 N. Broadway. 773-472-3492.

The Pakistani-turned-Iowan, currently a Comedy Central writer-actor in "Michael & Michael Have Issues," performs a stand-up set. 8 p.m. \$15.

Networking on the Rocks

The Standard Club, 320 S. Plymouth Ct. Subtitled Charitable Chicago, this philanthro-party lets you mingle with 10 local charities, such as Imerman Angels and Chicago Gateway Green, while learning about volunteer ops. Includes appetizers and a gift bag. 6:30 p.m. \$20. 312-327-5311.

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TUESDAY DEALS

ATMOSPHERE

\$1 well drinks and Bud Light drafts; 5355 N. Clark St. 773-784-1100.

BOTTOM LOUNGE

6 p.m.: McAuslan Beer Celebration. Get samples from Quebec microbrewery McAuslan Brewing, including St. Ambroise Pale Ale, Apricot Wheat Ale, Pumpkin Ale and the award-winning Oatmeal Stout. Company president Peter McAuslan and brewmaster Ellen Bounsell host the event. No cover; 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

BUNGALOW LOUNGEBAR

\$3 Miller Lite pints, \$5 call drinks; 1622 W. Belmont Ave. 773-244-0400.

CANS BAR AND CANTEEN

Two-for-one appetizers; 1640 N. Damen Ave. 773-227-2277.

CREW

\$1 tacos, \$2.75 Bud Light pints, \$3 Bud Light Lime bottles, half-price appetizers (4-6 p.m.); 4804 N. Broadway. 773-784-2739.

F. O'MAHONY'S

\$3 Jameson shots, \$4 Irish drafts, open mic 8:30 p.m.; 3701 N. Broadway. 773-549-0226.

FEARON'S PUBLIC HOUSE

\$3 Bud Light drafts, \$3 cocktails, \$5 angus burgers and fries, \$12 Miller buckets; 3001 N. Ashland Ave. 773-248-0990.

THE GLOBE PUB

\$4 Beamish drafts, \$7 chicken fajitas, pub quiz 8 p.m. \$5 for quiz; 1934 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-871-3757.

HAMILTON'S PUB

\$2.25 Michelob Ultra and Bud bottles, \$2.50 you-call-its, \$3.25-\$4.25 quesadillas; 6341 N. Broadway. 773-764-8133.

HIGH DIVE

25 cent wings, \$3.50 pints, \$4 Absolut cocktails, \$2.50 PBR



Here for the beer

Head to 6 Degrees (1935 N. Damen Ave.) in Bucktown for \$3.50 Fat Tire drafts, Heineken bottles and Amstel Light bottles. **CHUAN D. VO FOR METROMIX**

THE PONY

\$3 Coors Light cans, \$11 half-slab ribs; 1638 W. Belmont Ave. 773-828-5055.

THE LEDGE BAR & GRILL

Industry night. \$3 well drinks, \$4 Stella Artois drafts, \$5 Patron shots; 1745 W. North Ave. 773-252-6053.

LOTTIES PUB

\$3 burgers, \$3 select drafts, \$4 Jameson shots; 1925 W. Cortland Ave. 773-489-0738.

MARTINI PARK

Speakeasy Tuesdays. \$7 cocktails, live swing band 7 p.m.; 151 W. Erie St. 312-640-0577.

NICK'S BEER GARDEN

\$5 for a house shot and a select beer, \$5 well cocktails; 1516 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-252-1155.

THE ORBIT ROOM

\$4 Corona bottles and Maker's Mark cocktails, \$4 angus burgers; 2959 N. California Ave. 773-588-8540.

THE SPOT

\$2 off menu items, \$10 drink tasting menu; 4437 N. Broadway. 773-728-8934.

SULLY'S HOUSE TAP ROOM AND GRILL

\$3.50 Guinness drafts, half-price wings; 1501 N. Dayton St. 312-929-2779.

T'S

\$12.50 all-you-can-eat fish and chips, \$6 double pints; 5025 N. Clark St. 773-784-6000.

VILLAINS BAR & GRILL

Half-price appetizers, \$4 Lagunitas bottles and drafts; 649 S. Clark St. 312-356-9992.

ZELLA

\$2.50 Miller Lite and Coors Light bottles, \$3.50 call drinks, \$4 glasses of house wine; 1983 N. Clybourn Ave. 773-549-2910.

Brand-new bars

Check out metromix.com for the latest openings, from Bridgeport sports bar and beer garden Rocky's to River North ultra-lounge Cuvee.

TUESDAY CONCERTS**BILL'S BLUES JAM**
8:30 p.m. Free. Bill's Blues Bar, 1029 Davis St., Evanston. 847-424-9800.**BOSSA SARAH**
8 p.m. \$5. Katerina's, 1920 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-348-7592.**CHARLIE LOVE AND THE SILKY SMOOTH BLUES BAND**
9:30 p.m. \$10. Buddy Guy's Legends, 754 S. Wabash Ave. 312-427-0333.**DEAR CHICAGO, LIARS ROYALE, ARTISTS VS. ATHLETES**
8:30 p.m. \$8. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. housecallent.com**DEATH FROM THE LEFT, INNERFALL, ATROPHY OF EXISTENCE**
8:30 p.m. \$7. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.**DEEP BLUE ORGAN TRIO**

9 p.m. \$6. Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway. 773-878-5552.

DMITRI HVOROSTOVSKY

8 p.m. \$10-\$50. Ravinia Festival, Martin Theatre, 200-231 Ravinia Park Rd., Highland Park. 847-266-5100.

DR. MANHATTAN, TRUMAN AND HIS TROPHY, VICTORIAN HALLS

6:30 p.m. \$8-\$10. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. housecallent.com

GREG WARD'S FITTED SHARDS

9 p.m. \$5-\$15 suggested donation. Elastic, 2830 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-772-3616.

JAY BENNETT TRIBUTE: FAIR HERALD, LOU CARLOZO, CITY AT LARGE, EVAN HOLMES

8 p.m. \$7. Martyrs, 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

JIM COOPER

8 and 10 p.m. \$5-\$10. Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct. 312-360-0234.

JOE BARR, QUINTUS MCCORMICK

9:30 p.m. \$12. Kingston Mines, 2548 N. Halsted St. 773-477-4646.

JOSE VALDES AND THE MAMBO ZOMBIES

8 p.m. Free. Green Dolphin Street, 2200 N. Ashland Ave. 773-395-0066.

KATHERINE PAYNE

8 p.m. Free. Cornelia's Restaurant, 750 W. Cornelia Ave. 773-248-8333.

LINSEY ALEXANDER BLUES BAND WITH NELLIE TRAVIS

9 p.m. \$8. Blue Chicago at Ohio, 536 N. Clark St. 312-661-0100.

LORNA BOSTON BAND

10:30 p.m. Cover varies. The Underground Wonder Bar, 10 E. Walton St. 312-266-7761.

M13

9 p.m. Free. Quenchers Saloon, 2401 N. Western Ave. 773-276-9730.

MEGAFAMA, FRIGATES, POSTCARDS

9:30 p.m. \$5-\$8. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

NEAL ALGER'S BLUE NOTE QUARTET

9 p.m. \$10. Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St. 312-642-6805.

PETE GALANIS AND FRIENDS

9:30 p.m. \$5-\$7. Rosa's Lounge, 3420 W. Armitage Ave. 773-342-0452.

THE PRETENDERS, CAT POWER, JULIETTE LEWIS

7:30 p.m. \$45. Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-472-0449.

REBELUTION, GIANT PANDA GUERRILLA DUB SQUAD, IRATION

8 p.m. \$15. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

RODNEY BROWN AND HOT ROD

9:30 p.m. Cover varies. B.L.U.E.S., 2519 N. Halsted St. 773-528-1012.

SEXFIST

10 p.m. Free. Red Line Tap, 7006 N. Glenwood Ave. 773-274-5463.

TOM HOLLAND

8:30 p.m. Free. Harlem Avenue Lounge, 3701 Harlem Ave., Berwyn. 708-484-3610.

TOM SCHRAEDER

6:30 p.m. Free. Welles Park, 2333 W. Sunnyside Ave.

TUESDAYS ON THE TERRACE: JASON ADASIEWICZ

5:30 p.m. Free. Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave. 312-397-4010.

TYPHANIE MONIQUE TRIO

5 p.m. \$5. Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St. 312-642-6805.



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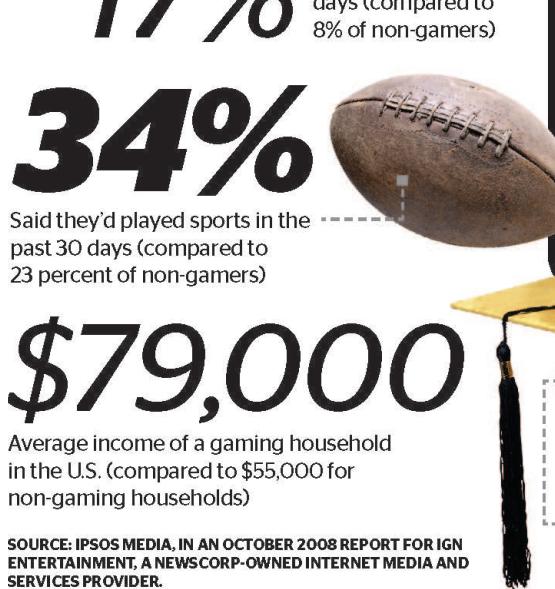
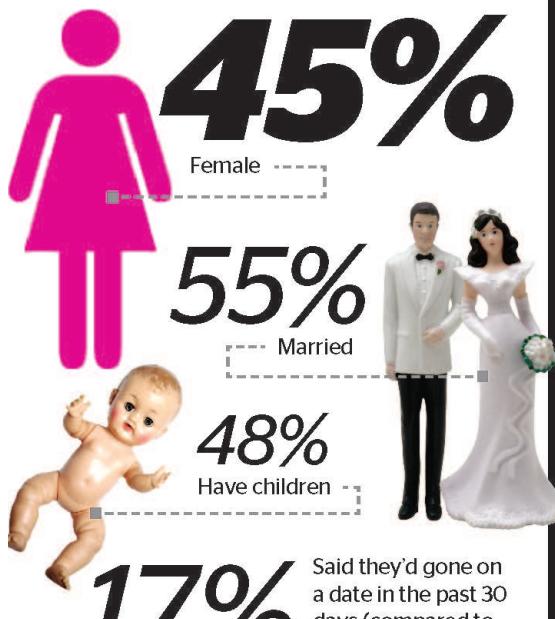
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pop

By the numbers

Some 114 million American adults play video games—more than half the population—and their spendy tendencies have market researchers trying to pinpoint just who they are. Purchases of video games in the U.S. totaled \$6.7 billion last year and are expected to reach \$10 billion by 2013, according to consumer market research firm Packaged Facts.

Here are some survey findings about the adult gamer population, which includes hard-core and casual players. Turns out gamers are more affluent, educated, active and social than the general population—but not more nutrition-conscious. **ALEXIA ELEJALDE-RUIZ**



Everyone's game

Forget stereotypes—video gamers are cooler than you remember

By Alexia Elejalde-Ruiz

REDEYE

Arlette Resendiz's love affair with video games began at age 4, when her father brought home a Nintendo Entertainment System and inadvertently introduced her to her first crushes: Super Mario Brothers and The Legend of Zelda.

Now 25, married and living with her husband and four cats in suburban Westmont, Resendiz said she owns 26 game systems, from an old-school Atari and the original Game Boy to the trifecta of modern gaming: the Nintendo Wii, XBox 360 and PlayStation 3.

While other twentysomethings spend drunken nights at bars, Resendiz hosts video game parties at her apartment three times a month. After she gets home from her day job—as a project activity assistant for a federal education grant—Resendiz said she plays video games for another five or six hours, battling robots in *Mega Man X* while her husband, Joseph Adelfio, plays *World of Warcraft*.

Pretty, petite and stylish, with her own jewelry line and a volunteer gig at the Animal Welfare League, Resendiz doesn't fit the stereotype of the geeky gamer. But if you still think of video gamers as nerdy teenage slackers holed up in their parents' basements, you've been eating too many mushrooms on your quest to save Princess Toadstool.

Some 53 percent of American adults play video games, and a fifth of them play every day or almost every day, according to a 2008 study from the Pew Internet and American Life Project. Gaming is especially hot among young adults, with 81 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds saying they play, the study found.

Market researchers have marveled at what they call the “changing face” of gamers, who they say, on average, make more money, are better educated and are more social than their non-gaming counterparts. The average age of a player: 35, according to a 2008 industry report from business research firm IBISWorld.

LaVergerae Tyler, 39, said many people are taken aback to learn she's into video games, both because of her age and because she's a woman.

“It definitely opens up conversation,” Tyler said. “You'd be surprised at people who come across as very serious personalities, but they have this flip-side to them, they're interested in logging in and blowing stuff up.”

Tyler, who lives in Dolton, said playing video games—whether it's fishing, deciphering puzzles or killing zombies—helps her unwind after a long day at her finance job. An artist, Tyler said she also feels “inspired” by the creativity that goes into developing games, from the story line to the music.

Resendiz also is drawn to the artistry of

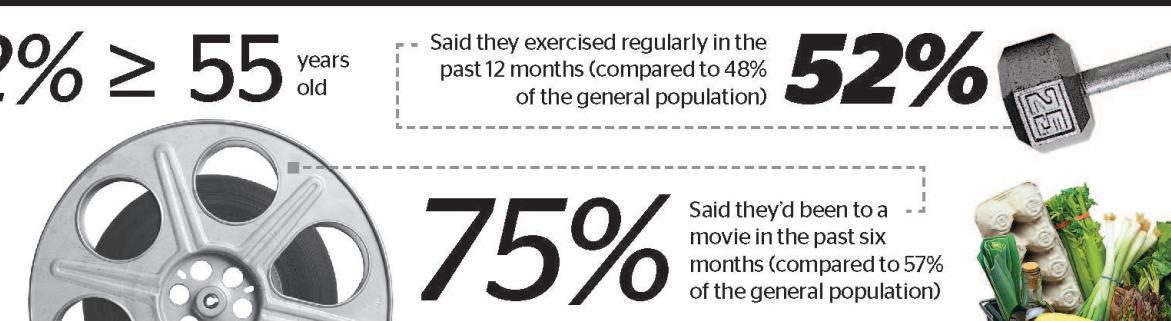
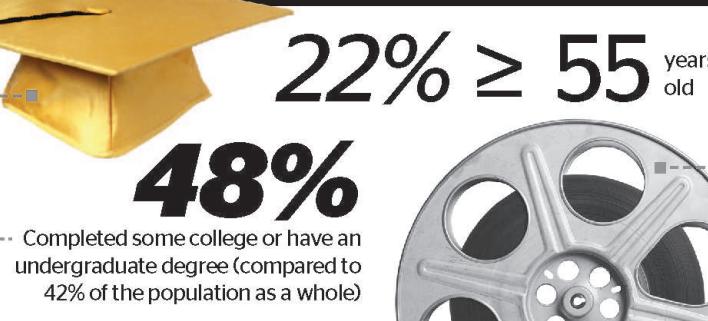


Arlette Resendiz and her husband, Joe Adelfio, play video games in their Westmont apartment. Resendiz recently founded the Female Gamers Alliance Network.

ANDREW A. NELLES FOR REDEYE

the video game industry.

When she's not playing, Resendiz draws video game characters and writes game reviews for the Female Gamers Alliance Network, an organization she founded four months ago because she “felt very alone” being the only girl among her gamer friends (it now has 1,500 members). The 57.4 million women who play video games account for about half the gamer population, according to a January study from market research firm Packaged Facts.





"Since I was little, I've been very creative, and [video games] just gave me an extra do or where I can go in and develop my skills," Resendiz said.

Cashing in

Some gamers are cashing in on their hobby.

Justin Kats, a 20-year-old living in south suburban Lansing, said he won \$30,000 playing Halo 3 at tournaments in 2008, his best year yet. His team, Final Boss, is ranked fourth this year in the Halo 3 standings in the pro circuit

of Major League Gaming, the only professional video game league in the U.S., and plans to compete at the MLG National Championships in January for the \$100,000 grand prize.

Kats, who plays under the gamer tag "fearitself," said he practices eight to 12 hours a day, usually playing Halo online from about 8 p.m. until 4 a.m. Still, he said he has a girlfriend, plays basketball with friends and is in a bowling league. In fact, Kats said, professional gamers often are athletes, defying the stereotype of the out-of-shape, anti-social loner.

"It has nothing to do with being big and strong, but all the professional video gamers are in shape," Kats said. "It all comes down to your mentality," as the pros have to be ultra-competitive.

Kats, who lives with his parents, isn't quite living the glamorous life of the video game rock

stars who make hundreds of thousands of dollars. He said he eventually hopes to take college classes in graphic design to get into game or logo design, but for now playing video games "is better than a minimum-wage job."

Gamer Kelly Kelley, 21, said she supplements modest earnings from winning tournaments and LAN (local area network) events—about \$5,000 per year—with a part-time job as a game adviser at video game retailer Game Stop. Kelley, who also co-hosts Pwndcast, a Lemont-based podcast about the gaming experience, wears her fandom with pride.

As the costumed crowds shuffled through the aisles at Wizard World's Chicago Comic-Con earlier this month, Kelley emerged from behind the video gaming booth where she was working and pointed to a white bandage around her ankle.

Bar bits

Who says you need to stay home to get your gaming fix? In addition to the multiple Chicago bars that host Wii or Guitar Hero nights, a few venues are putting video games at center stage—or at least giving them a permanent home.

Bull and Bear

431 N. Wells St.

Ask for the Xbox 360 table at this trendy downtown sports bar and you play on an overhead TV where your friends—and the rest of the bar—can watch. The video game "menu" includes Madden '09, NBA Live and Streetfighter 4. Or bring your own.

Plans are in the works to expand to other booths and add a PlayStation 3. Call ahead to reserve.

Hotel Sax

333 N. Dearborn St.

The sixth floor of the swanky hotel houses "The Studio," where gamers can lounge on cushions playing Xbox 360 on one of four flat-screens. There are more than 60 games available, plus an area for playing Guitar Hero and Rock Band. Use of the room is free—but it's for hotel guests only. Time to convince out-of-town friends to come for a visit.

The Ashland

2824 N. Ashland Ave.

This Lakeview "public house," as it calls itself on its Web site, always has Xbox 360 and Wii available for customers to play while they drink a microbrew. The bar also occasionally hosts video game release parties, and on special occasions breaks out the old Atari.

"I just got a tattoo of the Assassin's Creed logo!" she announced, referring to the action game.

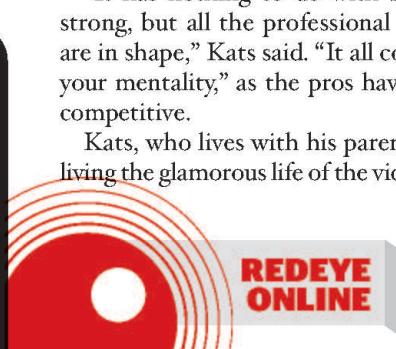
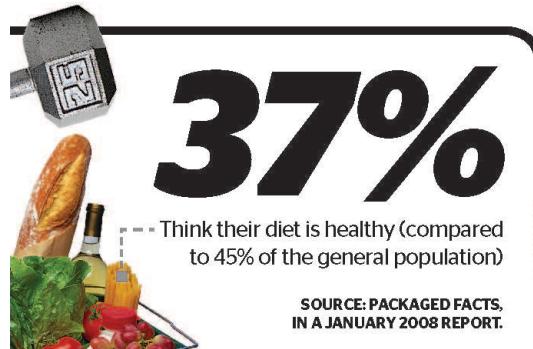
Kelley said she would rather be inside meeting people from around the world through online gaming than go out partying with friends.

Gaming also shapes her romantic life.

"There's no way I could date a non-gamer," said Kelley, who was living in Chicago before moving to Florida two months ago to be with her boyfriend, whom she met at a Major League Gaming event. "It's what we do together."

Kelley said she isn't taken as seriously as men in competition, but she left Chicago Comic-Con undefeated playing Gears of War 2 and Halo 3—which sometimes meant going up against the kiddies.

"I played a 3-year-old yesterday," Kelley said during the convention. "Yeah, I beat the [bleep] out of him." AELEJALDERUZ@TRIBUNE.COM



Do gamers rule the world? You might be surprised at what "Geek to Me" blogger Elliott Serrano has to say. Read his full manifesto at redeyechicago.com/geektome.



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VIDEO

Mika's 'We Are Golden'

<http://bit.ly/muw3G>

British pop star Mika follows up his 5.6 million selling hit debut "Life in Cartoon Motion" with "We Are Golden" this fall. Mika trekked to L.A. to record the tunes for the new album and Greg Wells, who has worked with Pink and Rufus Wainwright, manned the production booth. Judging from the debut video, we're in for more catchy pop with more than a trace of Freddie Mercury-esque vocals. **SARAH ZUPKO, POPMATTERS.COM**

TV

'Flipping Out'

9 p.m. Tuesday, Bravo

The economy is hurting all of us, including obsessive-compulsive house flipper Jeff Lewis (above). This season, the bitchy boss is remodeling other people's homes, with the help of his put-upon team that now includes an intern who is just as particular as Jeff. **CURT WAGNER, REDEYE**

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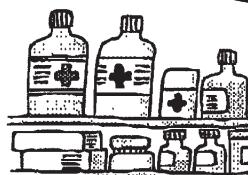
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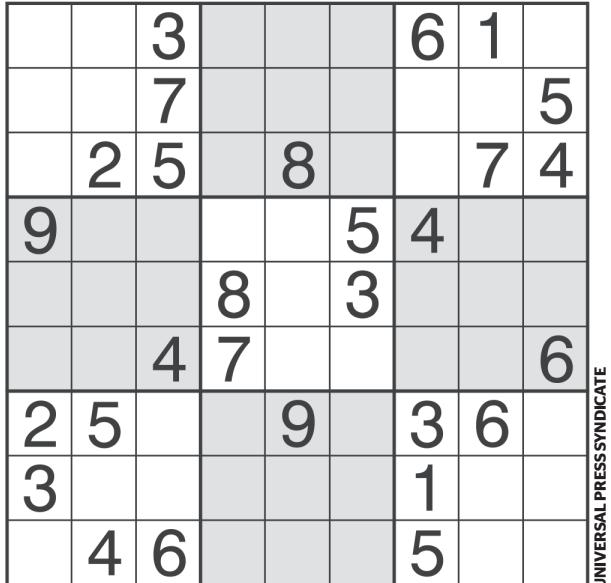
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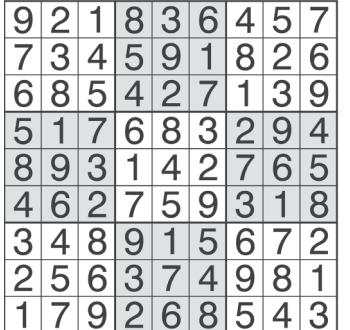
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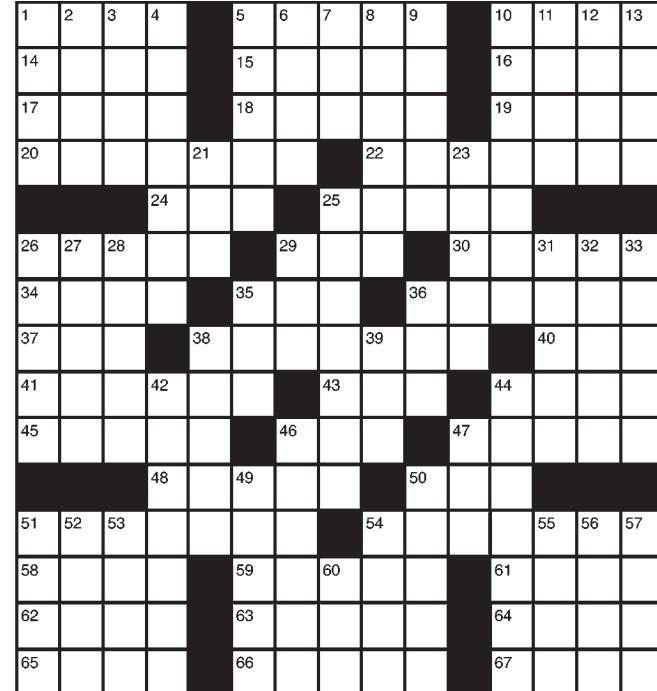
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- Friendly
- Submarine
- Sketched
- Region
- Small rodent
- Foreign currency
- Clenched hand
- Make a mess of
- Extended family
- Blabbermouth
- Most uncanny
- Listener's need
- Verb in a bread dough recipe
- Prize
- eBay offer
- Aromatic wood
- Black, sticky substances
- Spanish hero
- Diminish
- Wedding words
- Mafia member
- Large snake
- Abnormal tissue
- Baby goat
- Drug agent
- General tendency
- Key lime
- Use watercolors
- Criminal
- Excavated
- Vine support, perhaps
- Greedy
- Invisible emanation
- Hazy
- Doing nothing
- Fuzzy residue
- Proclamation
- Close by
- Part of the leg
- Gets in order of importance
- Chess or Clue

DOWN

- Move lightly on the wind
- Notable nymph
- Take a break
- Is important
- Brown shade
- Rude person
- Not at home



- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 8 Arise | 29 Overalls part | broad face |
| 9 Giggle | 31 Arab sheikhdom | 49 Largest organ in the body |
| 10 Made up one's mind | 32 Oak dropping | 50 Counts calories |
| 11 Bylaw | 33 Respond | 51 Discussion |
| 12 Periods of time | 35 Jailbird | 52 Destroy |
| 13 Refuses to | 36 Scarlet or ruby | 53 Sea eagle |
| 21 Boy | 38 Fashion show | 54 Hockey disk |
| 23 Foy or Unser | participant | 55 Concept |
| 25 Soft leather | 39 Even score | 56 Close noisy |
| 26 Leaning | 42 Fill with air | 57 In this place |
| 27 One who gets his | 44 Finding fault incessantly | 60 _ and tonic |
| feet wet | 46 Spanish inn | |
| 7 Went skyward | 47 Small dog with a | |

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"Dancing With the Stars" judges Len Goodman (left), Carrie Ann Inaba and Bruno Tonioli.

ABC

BY JIM WALSH
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'BALLROOM BLOODBATH'

"Dancing With the Stars" host Tom Bergeron says the new season of the reality competition will be a "ballroom bloodbath" at times—and not because mixed martial artist Chuck Liddell is one of the competitors. "In the middle of our season, over three weeks, we're going to have double eliminations," Bergeron said Monday on "Good Morning America," according to The Associated Press. "We'll lose about half of our cast within that period." Sounds creepy, Tom. Until the show returns Sept. 21 on ABC, we'll have to busy ourselves thinking about how each contestant will fare. Here's a look at the lineup and what they're best known for.



Aaron Carter
2000's "Aaron's Party (Come Get It)"



Natalie Coughlin
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Mark Dacascos
The Chairman of "Iron Chef America"



Tom Delay
Former House Majority Leader (Republican)



Macy Gray
1999's "I Try"



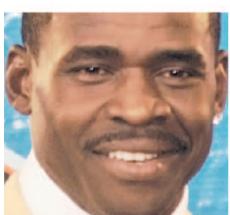
Ashley Hamilton
Son of former "DWTS" star George Hamilton



Melissa Joan Hart
"Sabrina the Teenage Witch"



Kathy Ireland
Being a supermodel



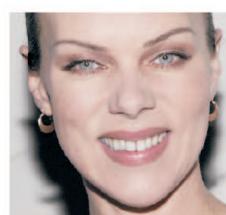
Michael Irvin
3 Super Bowl championships



Joanna Krupa
Being a supermodel. Being from Chicago.



Chuck Liddell
Ultimate Fighting Championship



Debi Mazar
Shauna on "Entourage"



Mya
Starred in "Chicago"



Kelly Osbourne
Daughter of Ozzy Osbourne



Donny Osmond
"The Donny & Marie Show"



Louie Vito
Up-and-coming snowboarder

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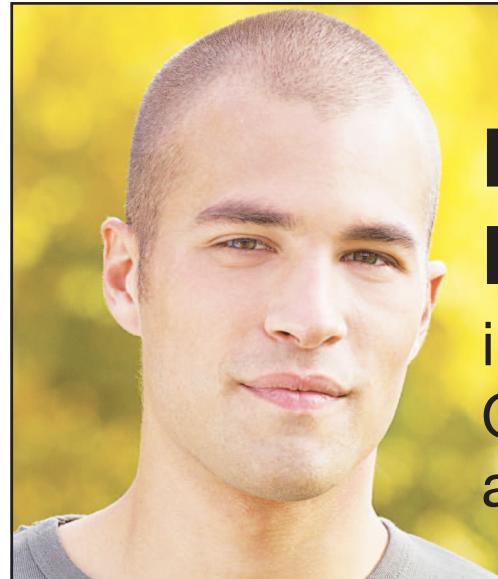
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red hot

McSteamy situation?

OMG! Is that who we think it is? Gossip site gawker.com on Monday posted a video it says depicts "Grey's Anatomy" star Eric "McSteamy" Dane showing some skin with his wife, Rebecca Gayheart, and former beauty queen Kari Ann Peniche. While the Internets were aflutter with news of the alleged sex tape Monday night, there was no comment from McSteamy as of press time.



Kari Ann Peniche



Rebecca Gayheart and Eric Dane
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Tyra gets real

Tyra Banks (right) is about to show us the real Tyra. She's losing the extensions and going natural, according to people.com.

"Guess What! I'm rockin' my REAL hair on my talk show September 8th. No fake hair at all! Will be the hair coming out of my scalp! 4 all 2 C!" Banks tweeted.



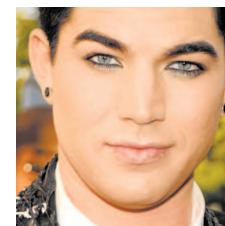
« RUMOR MILL

Is Jessica Simpson going to guest judge on "American Idol"? Not likely, her rep told Us Weekly. Over at people.com, word is Shania Twain is in talks to guest on "Idol." Stay tuned.

THE VELVET ROPE

Are you model material?

We don't know where, but we know when aspiring Chicago models will have to walk the tryout runway for Season 14 of "America's Next Top Model." Season 13 doesn't begin until Sept. 9, but the CW already announced open casting calls for the following season. Casting directors will be in Chicago from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Aug. 29, the network said Monday. If you're an 18- to 27-year-old woman who is at least 5-foot-7, you are eligible to try out. Check for updates and download an application at cwtv.com.



Lambert

Silence of the Lambert—not!

The apocalypse is coming, and it will be set to an Adam Lambert tune. The recent "American Idol" runner-up has recorded a song for sci-fi flick "2012," due

out in November, according to a post on Queen guitarist Brian May's blog. "It's truly sensational," May wrote without naming the song. "In fact it's so obviously a number one smash, any bookie would be mad to take bets on it." Consider our interest piqued!

Totally 'Twisted'

Oh, Radiohead, here we go again. The ever-evolving U.K. act posted a new track to radiohead.com/deadairspace on Monday after buzz built late last week around a song with the numbers 2009-08-17 in its file name that was purportedly leaked by the band. The new track, titled "These Are My Twisted Words," was available for free download Monday.

HOT DATE

Aug. 29

The date Michael Jackson finally will be buried in L.A., the New York Daily News reports, quoting the singer's father, Joe Jackson. The date also would've marked Jackson's 51st birthday.



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This week: Check out my Celebrity Interviews supporting the Chicago 2016 Olympic Bid!
ALSO airing on www.ChicagoNow.com & www.Chicago2016.org